

First Church in Oberlin (Congregational)
Northwest corner of North Main
and West Lorain Streets
Oberlin
Lorain County
Ohio

HABS No. 0-2117

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
120 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FIRST CHURCH IN OBERLIN

HAES
OHIO
47-0881

Location: Northwest corner of North Main and West Lorain Streets, Oberlin, Lorain County, Ohio.

Present Owner: First Congregational Church, Oberlin, Northwest corner of North Main and West Lorain Streets.

Present Occupant: First Congregational Church, Oberlin.

Present Use: Church.

Brief Statement of Significance: This church, erected in 1842, is the only remaining original building of a unique Congregational community of church, college and town.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The Congregational Church, Oberlin.
2. Date of erection: 1842 (on church front).
3. Architect: Perhaps Reverend Charles Finney,--said to be modelled after the Broadway Tabernacle in New York City.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: None exist.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Pulpit area remodelled and organ loft added in 1927. Rear steps replaced with concrete 1958.
6. Important old views and references:

Views: College buildings in Oberlin--drawn by Henry Howe in 1846--on page 127, Vol. 2, Historical Collections of Ohio by Henry Howe.

References: Page 125, Vol. 2, Historical Collections of Ohio by Henry Howe.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: This is the only remaining original building of a unique congregational community of church, college and town. [See page 125, Vol. 2, Historical Collections of Ohio by Henry Howe].

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: The interior of this church is exceptional.
2. Condition of Fabric: Very good. Tower sags because of unequal support. [See Historic American Buildings Survey sheets].

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Large auditorium with basement and attic.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Brick.
4. Chimneys: One, at rear.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Wood and wood trim.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Interior balcony cuts across windows which are continuous in height.
6. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Pitched roof with heavy timber trusses. [See Historic American Buildings Survey sheets].
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Wood.
 - c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Unusually fine handling of interior space in auditorium. [See Historic American Buildings Survey sheets].
2. Stairways: Wood--one at each end of entrance hall.
3. Flooring: Wood.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.

5. Trim: Wood.
6. Lighting: Electricity-- chandeliers and wall lamps.
7. Heating: Modern central heating.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Set on spacious lot, adjoined by later parish house to the north. Front faces east.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: Stone.
5. Landscaping: Large trees, in irregular natural grouping.

Prepared by Perry E. Borchers
February 10, 1959

Addendum to
First Church in Oberlin (Congregational)
N. Main & W. Lorain Sts.
Oberlin
Lorain County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2117

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Addendum to:

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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Data pages 1 through 3 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 4.

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRIC IMAGES

The glass photogrammetric plates listed below are not reproducible except with special permission. However, reference prints and film copy negatives have been made from the plates indicated by an asterisk (*) and are included in the Library of Congress collection of formal HABS/HAER photographs.

- 4 4" x 6" glass plate diapositives (2 stereopairs) and
30 4" x 6" glass plate negatives (15 stereopairs) produced by
 Perry E. Borchers of the Ohio State University in 1957 and
 1958.

One survey control contact print per plate; survey control information for each pair.

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-100L *	EAST FACADE, LOWER PORTION (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-100R	EAST FACADE, LOWER PORTION (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-101L*	EAST FACADE, TRIPOD TILTED UP (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-101R	EAST FACADE, TRIPOD TILTED UP (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 90%

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LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-102L *	EAST AND NORTH FACADES, ANGLED (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-102R	EAST AND NORTH FACADES, ANGLED (Negative) Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-103L *	SOUTH AND WEST FACADES FROM SW (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-103R	SOUTH AND WEST FACADES FROM SW (Negative) Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-104L *	SOUTH FACADE (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-104R	SOUTH FACADE (Negative) Left and right overlap: 80%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-105L *	WEST FACADE, LOWER PORTION (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-105R	WEST FACADE, LOWER PORTION (Negative) Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-106L *	ALTAR FRONT, MAIN ROOM, LEFT HALF (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-106R	ALTAR FRONT, MAIN ROOM, LEFT HALF (Negative) Left and right overlap: 80%

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LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-107L *	ALTAR FRONT, MAIN ROOM, RIGHT HALF (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-107R	ALTAR FRONT, MAIN ROOM, RIGHT HALF (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 80%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-108L *	BALCONY, REAR OF MAIN ROOM (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-108R	BALCONY, REAR OF MAIN ROOM (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 85%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-109L *	BALCONY, REAR OF MAIN ROOM (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-109R	BALCONY, REAR OF MAIN ROOM (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-110L *	BALCONY, MAIN ROOM, FROM SOUTH SIDE (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-110R	BALCONY, MAIN ROOM, FROM SOUTH SIDE (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 80%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-113L *	LOOKING FORWARD UNDER NORTH PORTION OF BALCONY (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-113R	LOOKING FORWARD UNDER NORTH PORTION OF BALCONY (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 90%

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LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-115L *	ACROSS BACK OF FIRST FLOOR, MAIN ROOM FROM SOUTH (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-115R	ACROSS BACK OF FIRST FLOOR, MAIN ROOM FROM SOUTH (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-116L *	LOOKING NORTH IN ENTRANCE STAIR HALL (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-116R	LOOKING NORTH IN ENTRANCE STAIR HALL (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-115R	ACROSS BACK OF FIRST FLOOR, MAIN ROOM FROM SOUTH (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-116L *	LOOKING NORTH IN ENTRANCE STAIR HALL (Negative)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-116R	LOOKING NORTH IN ENTRANCE STAIR HALL (Negative)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-117L *	NORTH SIDE OF RAISED PULPIT (Diapositive)
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-117R	NORTH SIDE OF RAISED PULPIT (Diapositive)
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-118L *	EDGE OF RAISED PULPIT
LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-118R	EDGE OF RAISED PULPIT
	Left and right overlap: 70%

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LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-119L *

ATTIC, LOOKING EAST
(Diapositive)

LC-HABS-GS07-T-810-119R

ATTIC, LOOKING EAST
(Diapositive)

Left and right overlap: 90%

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Photogrammetric images were incorporated into the HABS/HAER collections in the summers of 1985 and 1986. Inventories of the images were compiled and filed as data pages for each structure recorded. Since the glass photogrammetric plates are not reproducible except with special permission, a reference print and film copy negative were made from one plate of each stereopair and from the most informative plates in sequential sets. The reference prints and copy negatives were then incorporated into the formal HABS/HAER photograph collections.

The Photogrammetric Images Project was a cooperative endeavor between the HABS/HAER Division of the National Park Service and the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. The reference prints and film copy negatives of the original plates were made by the Library of Congress Photoduplication Service with funds provided by the Library of Congress Flat Film Preservation Fund. Additional reproductions were made by HABS/HAER. The project was supervised by HABS/HAER Architect John A. Burns, AIA, and completed by HABS Historians Jeanne C. Lawrence (University of London) in 1985 and Caroline R. Alderson (Columbia University) in 1986.